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Hobart: 22 March 1891  
Sunday eve. 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub> PM.

My dear old Doc,

I sat down an hour ago  
to write to you, but Lou Steele  
and Gordon Ellport came in,  
and I have been talking to them.  
Gordon came down to see the  
Steeles and goes back to the  
Colley in the morning. He  
expects to go back to England  
at the beginning of the year,  
and may possibly go sooner.  
The 'Ballarat' comes in to-morrow  
& sails on Tuesday after taking  
in 25000 cases of fruit. So  
the Steeles will be in England  
as soon as this letter which  
goes home in the same ship.  
I have given them your address  
and they are sure to look you  
up very soon. I will try to  
remember to get their address



but you could write to them  
to rely Allports address. They  
say they are looking forward  
with much interest to seeing  
you again, and would like  
to see the School I am sure.  
If they go over to Paris you might  
have the chance of going  
with them. They won't have  
a great deal of time, and  
Steele talks of Norway or  
Constantinople, but probably  
will be content with less  
ambitious schemes. I think  
I told you that the Mc Intyres  
go this week via N.Z. I will  
give them your address also.  
I fancy Mr Atherton goes  
in the Ballarat.

He is now up to the neck  
in tennis. They have been  
playing for places in the  
coming North South Match  
to be played on Easter Monday.



Isa has worked up to third place amongst the lady players: the first two being Miss Bernard & Rymer Maxwell. So you see she has been distinguishing herself. We have been having good weather lately. The two or three hot days we had two or three weeks ago had a strange effect on some of the English trees. Some of the Poplars in Franklin Square, an oak in the Barracks & some other trees have been scorched up as if they had been fired - they seem to be killed. It is strange that a couple of hot days should have done this, but it is probably the effects of the long drought - for altho' we have had two summers, we have had no rain. The country is as dry as a brick and quite brown & parched.

Harry Headlam was in town the other day. I think of going up to Meadowbank this week to make my long talked of trip to Russell Falls - or rather Browning Falls. If I do, I shall go up on Thursday & come back on Saturday probably. That will probably be enough, as there is nothing to do at Meadowbank. Isa wants me to see the Tennis match I think & I can knock out the other days at the Artillery Camp which is to be at the Sandy Bay Battery. Last night I went up to Billy Buckland's to dinner - Billy is wonderfully transformed - quite domesticated - never goes away from home & has even given up tennis almost entirely. What a transformation! His wife



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is rather a nice little woman. I forget whether you know her.

I received your letter yesterday with particulars about your art furnishing. It will be better for you to have the walk & I hope you will be more comfortable in your new quarters. The details you gave about your curtains & so forth were interesting. Any of the details you give about yourself & your surroundings always are. The only thing is you don't give enough for our appetite. We shall look for quite an artistic reform when you get home. Though I am afraid you won't find me sufficiently enthusiastic about it. I'm getting into the State when one would be



satisfied with anything without  
caring much about its beauty.  
But then mining has been  
low, has suffered a depression  
and I am rather low about  
some of my little specs which  
at present don't seem likely  
to give a profit but rather  
the other way. It is just  
like my luck & I really  
ought to have had more  
sense than to be drawn  
in. However I live in hope  
that things will recover.

The photos I promised are  
nearly ready, but you must  
wait until next mail,  
when I hope to send you  
a good budget, and trust  
that you have sent the  
studies as suggested.

You will be sorry to hear  
that poor Mrs Holmgren is  
worse again. She has had to



go back to the Asylum, after  
having been comparatively  
well for some time. I am  
very sorry for poor Waldemar.  
The doctor is recovering fast,  
his able to get up. Cutman  
is out of the hospital too.

Russell Young is away down  
at the East Coast. He wants  
to get in for Glamorgan at  
the coming election, if he can  
see a chance. Crowds of  
Candidates are coming out.  
Amongst others Guesdon is  
spoken of. He has just come  
back looking much older &  
fatter. You know that his  
wife (poor Maud Smith that  
was) died lately.

I must go down to Mrs  
Giblin's as she will be  
there for some weeks. I will  
finish this when I come  
back -

Later. I send you a Sydney  
paper with an illustration of  
our office, & some other Hobart  
views. - I have just been up  
stairs to see the mother who  
sends the usual messages, &  
laughs when I write her &  
not writing. Liz gave me her  
letter & Hal's, taking care to seal  
it up first, so that I should  
not read them. When I got the  
letter I quietly tore it open,  
and Liz & I have been abusing  
her roundly as 'a sneak'. The  
simple fact was that I knew  
they would all go in one envelope  
with this, for one postage. But  
I did not tell them.

Now mind you don't overwork.  
Bear in mind what I wrote  
last time. Let us know all about  
your work & what Mr Wehrschildt  
says & so forth. He must soon  
decide what you are to do.  
I hope your trip to England has  
not spoiled you. Yr devoted Wm.